

What's New in the MPDC

APRIL 1, 2002

CHIEF RAMSEY SAYS COMMUNITY COOPERATION KEY TO SOLVING VIOLENT CRIME INCIDENTS

In addition to reporting crime, there are many other ways in which DC residents can get involved in the fight against crime. Learn how you and your neighbors can become part of the "Policing for Prevention" partnership at:

mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/involved.shtm

Chief Ramsey and other MPDC officials this week exhorted members of the community to come forward and provide information to the police as they investigate a series of recent violent shootings in DC. MPDC officials are concerned that some of the incidents - including drive-by shootings involving assault-style weapons - may be related to gang disputes. Despite the violent nature of the crimes, many of which have occurred on the public way, MPDC investigators have received little information from either victims or witnesses. Ramsey said community cooperation is key to solving crimes that have already occurred and to preventing future acts of retaliation. He

reminded residents of the rewards the MPDC offers to cooperating witnesses: \$10,000 for information that leads to an arrest and conviction in any open homicide case in DC; for other crimes, \$1,000 through the Crime Solvers program for information that leads to an arrest and indictment. For more information about the reward programs, including information about some of DC's Most Wanted fugitives, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/solvers.shtm

WITH MANY CARS STOLEN DURING EARLY MORNING, MPDC ANNOUNCES WATCH YOUR CAR PROGRAM

Statistics show that 34 percent of stolen vehicles in DC are taken between 1 am and 5 am, and many more are driven during those hours. In response to this serious problem, Chief Ramsey - joined by Ward 6 Councilmember Sharon Ambrose, Metro Police Chief Barry McDevitt and other local and federal officials - officially kicked off DC's new Watch Your Car anti-theft program outside the Eastern Market Metro station. The free, voluntary program allows people who do not normally drive their vehicles between the hours of 1 am and 5 am to receive decals, which they place on their front and rear windshields. When police officers see a Watch Your Car vehicle traveling during those hours, the officers will stop the car and investigate. Metro is actively participating in Watch Your Car, as its police department works to reduce the number of auto thefts in and around its stations. Other partners include the DC DMV and two Northwest car dealerships. Read the news release announcing the program at:

For more information or to request a Watch Your Car application form, call 1-877-DC2-STOP. Very shortly, applications will also be accepted on the Watch Your Car Web site:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

LAST CHANCE: NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING DC GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE FOR CAFRITZ AWARDS

This is your last chance to nominate outstanding DC Government employees for the 2002 Cafritz Awards. The application deadline is April 2. The Cafritz Foundation is encouraging community groups and individual citizens to nominate outstanding DC Government employees for the 2002 Awards. Five winners honored at a gala later in the year. Additional information is available by calling 202-223-2598 or on-line at:

www.dcagenda.org/pages/award/award.html

MAYOR PROPOSES 2.2 PERCENT INCREASE IN MPDC'S FISCAL 2003 BUDGET

Chief Ramsey is scheduled to testify on the FY2003 budget before the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary on Monday, April 8. Get details on the DC Council's upcoming calendar at: www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/calendar.html

Mayor Williams this week unveiled his proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2003 – a budget that increases funding for the MPDC by 2.2 percent for the fiscal year that begins October 1, 2002. Among the specific changes in the proposed local funding for the MPDC are a \$2.8 million increase in salaries and fringe benefits to cover recently negotiated labor contracts and an additional \$1.6 million for a civilization program in which 47 civilian employees will be hired to replace police officers presently filling administrative positions. A \$1.8 million increase is also proposed for costs

associated with the Public Safety Communications Center on McMillan Drive, NW. Proposed increases in federal funds for FY2003 include new Department of Transportation grants to promote boating safety and highway safety enforcement, and additional support for gang prevention, narcotics enforcement and community policing efforts. For link to the proposed operating budgets for the MPDC and other DC government agencies, click on:

dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=324

WARNING: WARM WEATHER, TAX REFUNDS BRING OUT CON ARTISTS IN REGION

As the weather in DC warms up with the onset of spring, and as many DC taxpayers start to receive refund checks, con men and scam artists come out as well. A particular concern this time of year involves bogus home repair or landscaping businesses. Some of these firms promise work at low rates but do not offer a signed contract. They require a hefty up-front deposit in cash, then never return to complete (or even start) the job. Always check firms out with the Better Business Bureau or the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. Ask for references, and always demand a signed contract. Another common con involves variations on the "pigeon drop," in which con artists claim to "find" a large sum of money and agree to split it with the victim if he or she can put up a good-faith deposit. Other con artists claim to have provided money to a relative, and are seeking reimbursement from you. Best advice: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. No matter how good the deal appears, never give large sums of cash to someone you don't know and trust. For more information on how to protect yourself against cons and swindles, go to:

Is your community group interested in a presentation on preventing con games and swindles? Call the MPDC's Community Outreach Section at 202-727-0783.

mpdc.dc.gov/info/consumer/avoidswindles.shtml

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Chief Ramsey's regular monthly "Ask the Chief" appearance on WTOP radio is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, at 10 am. More information: www.wtopnews.com
- The week-long Youth Conference & Expo 2002 will conclude with a six-mile Bike-a-Thon east of the Anacostia River on Saturday, April 6. More information: mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)
- The entrance exam for the MPDC's Police Cadet program, which provides a unique opportunity for recent high school grads to begin a career in policing, is set for April 6. More information: mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV